



***Cornus stolonifer* – Red Osier Dogwood**

COMMON NAME: Red Osier Dogwood, Red Twig Dogwood

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cornus stolonifera* (*Cornus* is from Latin for “horn” and refers to the hardness of the wood)

FLOWER COLOR: white

BLOOMING PERIOD: May

SIZE: 6 to 8 feet high, spreading at least that much.

BEHAVIOR: A many-stemmed shrub that provides food and cover for mammals and songbirds. On good sites it forms dense thickets. It spreads by layering when the lower stems touch or lie along the ground and root at the nodes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: This is a characteristic species of low meadows and wet areas, but is also found in forest openings, open forest understories and along forest edges. Needs moderate to full sunlight. Prefers rich, moist soil.

NATURAL RANGE: From Newfoundland to Manitoba, south to the central U.S. Common in northeastern and Midwestern U.S. in previously glaciated areas.

SPECIAL FEATURES: An attractive landscaping plant with deep red stems and twigs for winter color. These gradually fade to grey-green during the growing season and become red again in the fall. The flowers are white, borne in a flat-topped cluster and without bracts. The fruit is berry-like, white in color and turns a gray color as it matures. The leaves turn maroon in fall.

SUGGESTED CARE: Once established this plant is drought tolerant. For gardeners in rural areas, the plant is less palatable to white-tailed deer than many other ornamental shrubs. It is well adapted to disturbed sites, excellent at stabilizing soil, easy to establish and grows rapidly. To maintain the red color cut woody stems back occasionally.

COMPANION PLANTS: Paper birch, quaking aspen, gooseberries, prairie willows.